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 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY [REDACTED]

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SUBJECT Travel of Communist Nationals from
Korea to China

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1. Before the Korean war, in order to visit Manchuria from North Korea, it was necessary for a Soviet citizen or a national of any country in the Communist bloc to obtain a Chinese entry visa from the embassy in Pyongyang.
2. A Soviet citizen required first an endorsement from his employer stating that he planned to enter Manchuria and giving the reason for his trip and details of date, route, etc. With this endorsement, his passport was presented at the Soviet embassy in Pyongyang for endorsement. The embassy assumed responsibility for obtaining a visa from the Chinese embassy and, after that was secured, an exit permit from the North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs. With the Soviet embassy handling these papers, it usually required only one day for the entire procedure.
3. A Soviet citizen of emigre origin, as distinguished from a Moscow Soviet national, followed a slightly different course. If he was employed, he applied for the employer's endorsement, then for an endorsement from the Soviet embassy in the same way as a Moscow Soviet. He was required, however, to appear in person at the Chinese embassy to apply for his visa to Manchuria, and, when that was obtained, to apply personally to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for his exit permit. The whole procedure took three to four days.
4. Unemployed Soviet citizens of emigre origin received their first endorsement from the chairman of the Soviet Citizens Association of Pyongyang. Before granting the endorsement, the chairman secretly conferred with the Soviet embassy to obtain their approval. In some cases, the embassy advised the chairman to delay the endorsement for several days under the pretext while an investigation was made into the purpose of the projected trip. The applicant was never informed of the reason for the delay. After the Soviet Citizens Association had endorsed the application, the procedure for obtaining visa and exit permit was the same as for employed person, the applicant visiting each agency in person.

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